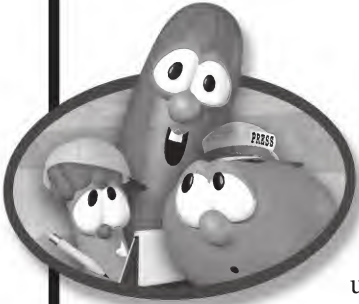


# VeggieTales® VeggieConnections™

Connecting to a Powerful Relationship with God.



## Sleuths in Snoodleburg

While exploring Snoodleburg, our super sleuth undercover reporters—THINK—LINK—ACT, discovered how Snoodles use their kazoos to communicate with one another. THINK reported that a much better way to communicate was revealed in the story of Saul meeting Jesus in Acts 9:1–19. LINK reported that Saul was blinded by a bright light, and Jesus talked to Saul. Saul was sorry for what he had done and wanted to know God better. Saul did what Jesus wanted him to do and he

became a great person for God. Saul's name changed to Paul and Paul wrote many of the books in the New Testament.

ACT decided he should try to help families get to know God better, by encouraging them to communicate with God. He did this by sharing Matthew 7:7. According to ACT, "This verse gives us a great promise: if we ask God to help us know him better, he will help us; if we seek him, we will find him."



## Bob and Larry's Fabulous Family Fun

Here's a fun way for families to experience the Communication Unit Verse: Matthew 7:7.

**Ask and It Will Be Given** What can you discover about God? Pray together, asking God to help you know him. As a family, take an investigative tour around your neighborhood and in your home. Make note of what you see that reveals something about what God is like. Gather together afterward and share your discoveries. Talk with each other—how do these discoveries make you feel about God? Pray together simple sentence prayers, thanking God for revealing himself to you.

**Seek and You Will Find** Play a fun game of hide-and-seek in your home. Begin by having a parent hide five items, such as a toy, a throw pillow, a Bible, a beautiful vase or picture, and a can of food. Let the rest of the family find the hidden items. When all the items have been found, gather together. Explain how these ordinary items can remind us of what God is like:

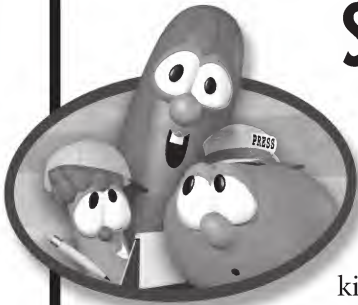
- The toy can remind us that God is joyful.
- The pillow reminds us that God wants to give us rest.

- The Bible reminds us that God has communicated with us.
- The beautiful vase or picture can remind us that God created a wonderful world for us to enjoy.
- The can of food reminds us that God delights in providing for our needs.

**Knock and the Door Will Be Opened to You** Gather in a room in your home that has a door. To THINK, brainstorm a list of friends who need to know God better. Have each family member select one of these people. To LINK, role-play: Family member A, who is not playing a character, should knock on the outside of the door. Family member B, playing a selected friend, opens the door. Then family member A talks to the "friend" about how God has made himself known to your family. Member B (playing the role of the friend) asks questions about what he or she would like to know about God. Switch roles until everyone has had a chance to tell someone about God. To ACT, plan a time when your family can get together with some friends to share God with them.

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## Snoodleburg Sighting

The **THINK—LINK—ACT** reporters discovered how kids are learning about prayer.

**THINK** said kids are learning how to communicate with God by looking at the examples of Paul. **LINK** reports that kids looked at Paul's prayer in Colossians 1:1–14. They looked at what Paul prayed for, and what things they could pray for as well. They also discovered there are different types of prayers. **ACT** explained that kids explored the unit verse, Matthew 7:7, *"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."*

## Recent Postal Strike Good for Courier Business

The recent postal strike has forced correspondents to seek private couriers for their postal needs. Private courier businesses have experienced a recent boost to their services. Tychicus, the courier on the Rome to Colosse route, stated, "I really enjoy helping so many people. One customer, Paul of Tarsus, is currently in jail in Rome. He has been one of our best customers, using couriers to take letters to all parts of Asia Minor."

### Undercover Reporters on a Mission

**THINK — LINK — ACT** are listening carefully to hear what Paul of Tarsus is telling about how he knows where to go next and share Jesus. There are several places he's wanting to go to. Where will he go next? Find out in the next issue of *VeggieConnections*!

## Bob and Larry's Fabulous Family Fun

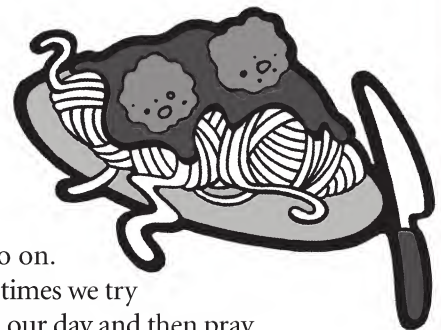


**Prayer Chains** As a family, look at the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9–13).

Memorize it together. While you are reading through it, make a prayer chain from construction paper. Cut strips of paper. On each strip, write one of the thoughts from the Lord's Prayer. Make a link of the chain by taping, gluing, or stapling the strip together. As you complete each link, attach it to the others. Use "**THINK—LINK—ACT**" to decide how to put into practice each of the links.

**Rewind Dinner** Have a "Rewind" dinner. Do everything backwards—walk to the table backwards, change each person's name to be spelled backwards, have dessert first!

During the meal rewind the day to discover how you should pray together, giving thanks, making requests and so on.



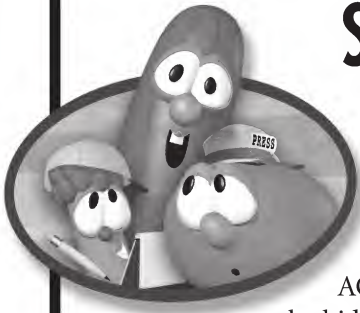
Discuss how sometimes we try to do everything in our day and then pray. And what happens? We get so busy and forget to pray! Remember to put God first and pray before you get busy. Don't forget to **THINK—LINK—ACT**!

**Swinging Prayers** As a family go to a local park that has swings. While swinging, again use **THINK—LINK—ACT**. While swinging slowly, **THINK** about what you should pray for. **LINK** by imagining that when you swing up, you are throwing your prayers up to God, who is powerful. **ACT** by speeding up the swinging and actually saying the prayer on the upswing.



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## Super Sleuth Sighting

Super secret undercover reporters, THINK—LINK—ACT were caught listening in on the kids in Snoodleburg. Here's what they heard. THINK reported that kids looked at the practice of listening to God. God speaks to believers in many ways: through the Bible, through people who love and serve him, through circumstances, through prayer, and through that still, small voice in their hearts, LINK reports. ACT said kids learned about listening to God through the Bible story in Acts 16:6–10 where God spoke to Paul in a dream.

## Wireless Companies Object to God's Free Minutes Calling Plan

A number of cellular companies have joined forces to file a class action suit against the Almighty. They complain that his calling plan is unfair because it's free, while they can't operate without charging people for phone service. Their legal efforts have failed because of their inability to deliver court documents to the Lord. According to God's spokesman, Jeremiah, God has said, "*Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great things you do not know,*" Jeremiah 33:3.

### Undercover Reporters in Jail

As THINK — LINK — ACT follow Paul on his missionary travels, they've found themselves holed up in jail with Paul and his friend Silas. Check out next week's *VeggieConnections* to find out how they get out of this mess!

## Bob and Larry's Fabulous Family Fun

Have some family fun listening to God using these ideas.

**Missionary Thoughts** After God spoke to Paul, he wanted to help the people of Macedonia. Missionaries have done the same thing. Gather some information about a missionary your church supports. During a meal together, THINK about what God might want you to do to help missionaries. LINK by reading the information to find out what kind of help they need. Talk about what your family could do to help them. ACT by making a specific action plan.

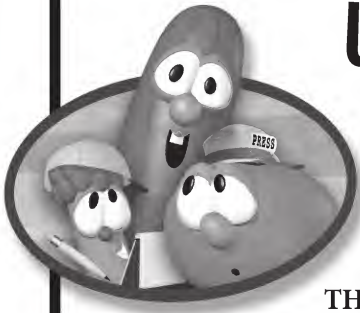


**Communication Collage** Eat a bowl of noisy puffed rice cereal together while talking about how people communicate. Make a collage together, using pictures from magazines that show people talking. THINK—Talk about the things that prevent you from listening to God at home (noise, busyness, anger, distractions, and so on). LINK—Make a plan to fix your home and your schedules so that you are ready to hear from God. ACT—Make it happen; then expect to hear what God has been trying to tell you.

**What Did You Say? I'm Listening!** Read Proverbs 3:1–10 together every day for one week. Make sure every family member knows what all the words mean. Before you read the passage, ask God to help you to listen to him. Say the *VeggieConnections* Program Verse, James 4:8, together: "***Come near to God, and he will come near to you.***" Spend time alone thinking about what God wants to say to you from these verses. Talk together every day about what God might be saying to your family.

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## Undercover Reporters All Shook Up!

**THINK—LINK—ACT** had an earth-shaking experience as they watched the kids reenact the Bible story of the earthquake with Paul and Silas who praised God in a prison dungeon (Acts 16:16–36). **LINK** said kids talked about worship—what it is and how to do it. **ACT** saw how kids learned that God comes near to them when they come near to him in worship.

## Electric Utilities Baffled by Power Spikes



Power spikes in warm weather are common, as a result of high air-conditioning requirements of consumers. But the power spikes that are becoming increasingly strong show that power is incoming, not outgoing, like the usual seasonal conditions. One electric company representative presents a theory: “We see the spike regularly on Sunday mornings, and then smaller spikes on other days of the week. I think the power is coming from God, as he connects with believers when they worship him.”

### Undercover Reporters Prepare for Battle

**THINK — LINK — ACT** are hearing words from Paul about preparing for a battle. But this isn't a battle fought with weapons. What kind of battle is it? Your next *VeggieConnections* will have a full report from **THINK — LINK — ACT**. Don't miss it!

## Bob and Larry's Fabulous Family Fun

Here are a few ideas to help you continue to discuss worship at home, in your Family Fun time.

**Listen to Music Together** Listen to songs to find what songs are about God, and what songs are actually talking to God. Decide which words are your own words of worship—things you want to say to God in worship.

**Plan a Worship Service within Your Family** Give everyone a job to do in preparation: prepare a song to sing or play, write a prayer, create a worship picture, lead a worship dance, read a Bible verse, tell a Bible story, or plan an offering (not necessarily money) to which everyone can contribute. Create a special place in your home to hold the service. You might use a special tablecloth, dim the lights, and light candles. If you feel comfortable, you might invite another family to join you.



**Jump for Joy Praise** Play jump rope together. Jump to this sentence: “God, I praise you for . . .” The person jumping names as many things as possible, stopping when he or she trips on the rope.

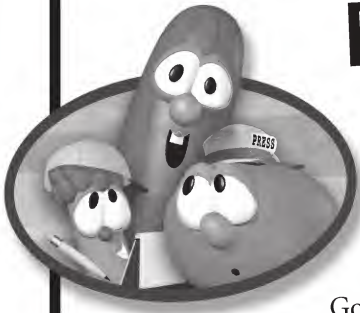
## Earthquake!

An earthquake, measuring 5.0 on the Richter Scale, occurred in the center of Philippi last night. The epicenter of the quake seemed to be the Philippian jail. No injuries were reported, and reports are that the quake was strangely localized. Buildings immediately surrounding the jail were not affected. Earthquake experts are confused.



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## Reporters Still Undercover

Under the cover of armor, that is. THINK—LINK—ACT, wearing the armor of God, observed kids learning about the spiritual armor Paul described in Ephesians 6:10–20. Kids learned about how the Bible can help them when they are faced with problems and need to make right choices.

## Fashion News

Metal armor is hot this season in the fashion capital, Ephesus. Internationally famous designer, Paul of Tarsus, currently headquartered in Rome, released his latest designs amidst a media flurry last week. From head to foot, says Paul, people should wear his “armor of God” collection.

## Enemy Activity Reported

Reports are circulating that the world’s problems are getting bigger and more complicated. The enemy knows to pick on believers when they are not protected. As a Christian leader in the fight, Paul is hopeful. “Putting on the armor of God provides terrific protection, as well as powerful weapons for combat,” says Paul. “With it we can be ‘strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.’”

### Undercover Reporters Discover God is Under Cover!

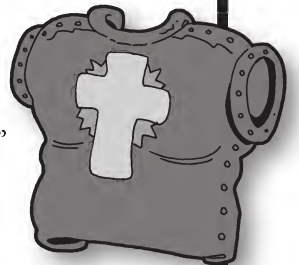
THINK — LINK — ACT are awestruck by their realization that God works undercover, too — as the Holy Spirit! And they’ve discovered what it means to have the Holy Spirit living inside of you. Check out the next *VeggieConnections* to find out what it means to you!

## Bob and Larry’s Fabulous Family Fun

**Have a Mixed-Up Night** In preparation, select a Bible verse, such as Proverbs 3:5–6. Write each word of the verse on separate slips of paper, and mix them up. Also, put clothes from each family member in a laundry basket, including socks, tops, and bottoms.

Serve scrambled eggs and tossed salad for a meal. Afterward, have each member put on a mixed-up outfit of socks, tops, and bottoms, with none of their own clothes. This will mean that some family members will have to wear clothing items in an unusual way (bottoms on one leg, for example). Talk about how God’s armor is not put on like clothing, but it means that we “put on” thinking patterns that use the Bible as our help when faced with problems.

Finally, put together the mixed-up verse. Memorize it together if you like.



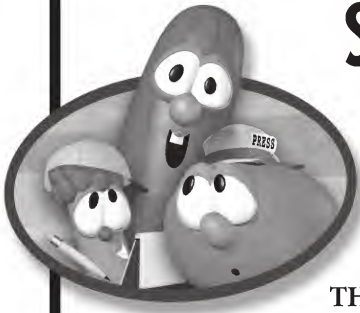
**THINK—LINK—ACT** Part 1: Make a poster that says “THINK—LINK—ACT” and hang it in your family room. Make cupcakes or cookies together and decorate them with the letters T, L and A. Make a T–L–A. card for your wallet, purse, or pocket.

Part 2: THINK—Share with one another a bad habit that you have or a hard choice you need to make. LINK—Look up a verse that addresses the problem in a concordance or Bible dictionary. These resources are available in the library or on the Internet, if you don’t have them at home. ACT—Memorize the verse, say it when faced with the problem, ask what would Jesus do, and do the right thing.

**Family Theme Song** Listen to some Christian songs. Decide on one song to call your family theme song that is about being “strong in the Lord.” Sing or play it at meal times or during family devotions.

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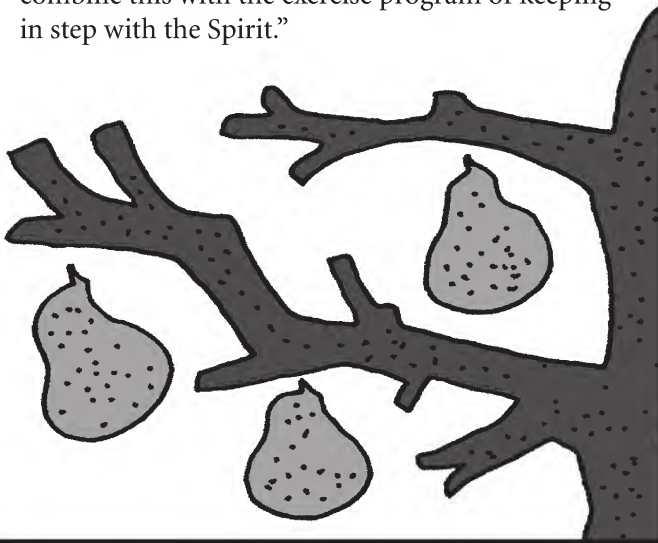


## Secret Agents of Health Discovered

THINK—LINK—ACT have discovered kids who are excited about fruit. “But not the kind you eat,” THINK explains. LINK reports kids in Snoodleburg are learning about the fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:16–26, in which Paul describes what it means to “live by the Spirit.” ACT reports kids also spent some time trying to understand who the Holy Spirit is. ACT reminds everyone that kids will probably continue to have questions about the Holy Spirit for many years to come, since all this is really hard to understand!

## Fruit Diet All the Rage?

“Yes, indeed!” nutritionist expert, Paul of Tarsus exclaims enthusiastically. He is talking about the latest trend, the “Fruit of the Spirit Diet,” which Paul describes in his letter to the church in Galatia. “You can be sure of positive results,” says Paul, “when you combine this with the exercise program of keeping in step with the Spirit.”

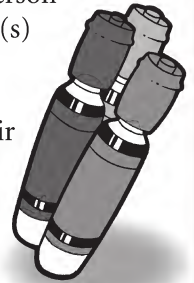


## Bob and Larry’s Fabulous Family Fun

Have some fun together as a family with these fruity ideas.

**Fruit Salad Family** Write the nine fruit of the Spirit on slips of paper (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control). Set these slips at each place setting of your dining or kitchen table (more than one slip at each setting is okay.) Share a yummy fruit salad together as you speak affirmations to one another. Take turns telling about how you have seen each person display the behavior that is on their slip(s) of paper.

**Fruity Feet** Have everyone take off their shoes. Using washable marker, write on the soles of the feet one way to follow Jesus concerning the fruit of the Spirit.



**Hard-to-Chew Fruit** Talk about which fruit of the Spirit is hardest for you. Use the THINK—LINK—ACT process to identify how to overcome this problem. Remember to THINK—Stop and identify the problem fruit. LINK—Remember the Unit Memory Verse: Matthew 7:7. Pray for God’s help, through the Holy Spirit. ACT—Talk through situations that family members face, in which the fruit is needed, and what needs to be done.

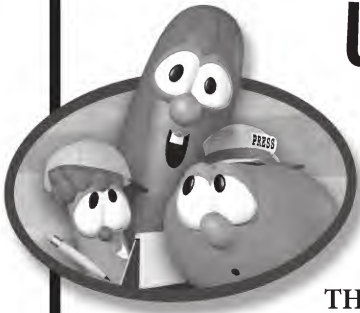
## Undercover Reporters Seasick from Rough Journey

THINK — LINK — ACT are recovering from a nasty trip they took aboard a prison ship carrying Paul to Rome to face trial for being a Christian. THINK reports, “It’s amazing we survived!” But LINK reminded THINK that Paul promised they would, because Paul was in constant communication with God during the whole ordeal. Get all the details in next week’s *VeggieConnections*!



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## Undercover Reporters Stow Away

**THINK—LINK—ACT** hid aboard a ship carrying Paul to Rome. Kids experienced Paul's stormy problem in Acts 27:1–44, **THINK** reported. **LINK** said kids discovered how God helped Paul and the crew of the doomed ship. Paul communicated with God and was told everybody would be safe if they stayed on the ship, even though the ship would be wrecked. **ACT** reports that after seeing how God saved Paul and the lives of those on the ship, kids are eager to ask God to help with their problems.

## Ship Destroyed in Hurricane!

Hurricane Spiritwind was reported off the island of Crete yesterday. No lives were lost as a result of the sudden disturbance. However, Empire Cruise Lines reports the total destruction of one of its finest ships, along with the loss of its entire cargo. One of the passengers of notoriety, Paul of Tarsus, was aboard at the time of loss.



## Bob and Larry's Fabulous Family Fun

**Hind Sight** Take a walk around your house, carrying hand mirrors. Be sure an adult does this with a child. Periodically take a look in the mirror to see behind you—where you've been. Don't do this on the stairs! As a family, look at family photos, particularly those from several years back. Talk about how God was with your family then. Talk about some problems your family had and how God was with you through the problems.



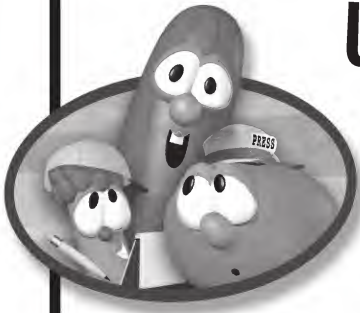
**Mosaic** Cut several large color pictures from a magazine. Cut the pictures into 1/2-inch squares. Create a new picture from the squares, such as a rainbow or a garden. While you are working together, talk about God's point of view when you have a problem. We see the problem up close and sometimes don't see solutions. But God sees the solution of every problem now and for the rest of your life!

### Reporters on Hand to Cover Paul's Greatest Message

**THINK — LINK — ACT** get to use their Time Machine (they got it fixed!) and go from the end of Paul's ministry to the beginning. Once there, they will report on Paul's greatest message—a message everyone needs to hear! Look for the next issue of *VeggieConnections* to learn that message!

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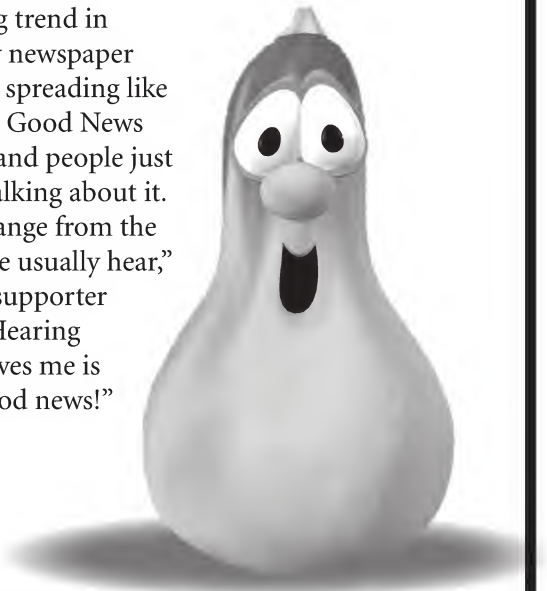


## Undercover Reporters Not So Undercover

**THINK—LINK—ACT** started preaching about Jesus after they saw how the kids in Snoodleburg learned about Saul (also called Paul). **THINK** reported that after Saul became a believer in Jesus, he loved to tell others about him (Acts 9:20–31). **LINK** said kids learned what preaching was all about. **ACT** reports kids were excited about telling others about God's good news.

## New Trend in Journalism

A surprising trend in current-day newspaper reporting is spreading like wildfire. It's Good News Reporting, and people just can't stop talking about it. "What a change from the bad news we usually hear," one happy supporter declared. "Hearing that God loves me is amazing good news!"



## Bob and Larry's Fabulous Family Fun

**Family Witness** Make a video or audiotape, in which family members talk about how God has been at work in your family. Family members can share how they came to know Jesus or why they are friends with Jesus now. Your family can sing Christian songs together, read Bible stories, or even act out a skit. Do you have friends who are ready to hear the Gospel? Make a copy of your tape for them.

**Connect with God Greeting Cards** Make a special card for a friend. Fold a sheet of paper in half. Cut out a piece of small patterned fabric, using pinking shears. Be sure to cut the fabric smaller than the face of the card. Glue the fabric to the front of the card. Cut out a heart from construction paper. Glue that to the center of the fabric. On the inside of the card, write a special message to your friend, like "God loves you and so do we!" Tie a thin ribbon along the crease of the paper. Give the card to your friend, perhaps with a batch of heart-shaped cookies.

**Gospel Feet** Read the verse, "Blessed are the feet of those who bring good news" (Isaiah 52:7). Have each family member put their bare feet into a pan of tempera paint. Step onto a large sheet of newsprint or mural paper. While the footprints are drying, wipe the paint from your feet. Once dry, write out instructions on the footprints of what to say—and what not to say—when telling others about Jesus. Or next to each footprint, list one idea of a way to help someone connect with Jesus.

### Undercover Reporters Depart for New Exciting Adventure

**THINK — LINK — ACT** hope you've enjoyed their inside scoop on the exciting adventures of Paul. They promise another awesome adventure beginning in next week's *VeggieConnections!*